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Approved For Release 2002/06/28 : CIA-RDP78-04723A000100060021-7

10 JUN 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

1. On Tuesday 26 May 1970 I received from the Chief, Supply Division requisitions submitted by the Office of Security for 10 data couplers, 1 data format converter, and spare parts representing a total value of about \$70,000. I discussed these requisitions with

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[REDACTED] over the telephone to find out why they were being submitted at this time. When the [REDACTED]

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system proposal was considered last year the large volume of paper tape it was expected to produce was identified as a problem in terms of the capacity in OCS to process it and the cost of that processing. The factors of capacity and cost caused a question to be raised about whether or not the project should proceed if a suitable alternative to the paper tape medium could not be found. My recollection had been that representatives of the Offices of Security and Computer Services were to work together to assess the magnitude of the paper tape problem, test the feasibility of processing it, and attempt to identify alternative solutions. I had understood that the data processing problem was to be submitted to the DSS/IPC and the ADDS for reconsideration when alternative solutions had been identified and a recommended course of action could be offered. At that time there was to have been a reevaluation of the cost of proceeding in terms of the expected benefits to be derived and a judgment made about whether or not the expected return in terms of the operational requirement would justify

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the cost of the overall system. The equipment being requisitioned gave me the impression that an alternative to paper tape had been selected and a decision to proceed had been reached without having been submitted to the DDS/IPC or the ADDS.

2. After questioning [] about the requisitions over the telephone, I talked with the Assistant Deputy Director for Support; the Acting Director of Computer Services; and Chief, Management Support Division/OCS; the Chief, Scientific Application Division/OCS; the Chief, Intelligence Support Division/OCS; the Chief, Operations Division/OCS; and the Chief [] I found that not all of these people had the same recollection or understanding that I had about the steps which were to have been taken after the [] proposal was reviewed last year.

3. The proposal to [] was included in the Office of Security program and funds for that purpose were available in their 1970 budget. The [] equipment [] was ordered separately and is already in the pipeline. The Chief, Technical Division, Office of Security felt that the program and budget approval gave him sufficient authority to proceed once he had satisfied himself and the Chief, Intelligence Support Division/OCS that he had found a suitable method of avoiding the paper tape problem. The data couplers will accomplish this purpose by producing a magnetic tape cassette and the format converter will produce a computer tape suitable for processing on IBM equipment from the cassette as well as from paper tape. This latter feature will permit the present [] installations to continue operating in their present mode while eliminating the need for OCS to process paper tape. The

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Chief ISD/OCS has evaluated the equipment and agrees that it represents the most reasonable alternative available at this time. The Chief Operations Division/OCS has seen the specifications for the equipment and foresees no processing problems if the specifications are met.

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25X1A [] and comments from Chiefs of station where
they have been installed substantiate the requirement and justify
25X1A proceeding []

4. I reported the substance of these findings to the Assistant Deputy Director for Support, concurred in the requisitions, and returned them to the Office of Logistics for processing.

[]
Chief, Support Services Staff

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